REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. Reconsideration and allowance based on the below comments are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kazemi, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,381,556). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

For reasons of brevity, applicant hereby incorporates the arguments filed in the Response dated November 7, 2003.

The Office Action alleges that Kazemi teaches associating symptoms occurring in a system with defects that cause those symptoms. Applicant strongly disagrees.

Kazemi teaches a system for analyzing data from a manufacturing environment. The system collects, classifies and interprets data from the manufacturing process. In the system, defects are associated with a description of the defect and displayed to an operator. However, the system of Kazemi does not associate symptoms caused by a defect with that particular defect. In fact, Kazemi does not teach or suggest using any type of symptom data.

The Office Action states that "A000-Symptom" and "0131-No light continuity" which are descriptions of defects in the defect description section of Fig. 35 "are represented as symptoms of defects in the defect description entity". Applicant respectfully submits that such a statement is merely

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column 20, lines 50-53 of Kazemi, Fig. 35 is described as providing a "defect I.D." and "defect description" for a variety of defects. Nowhere does Kazemi teach or suggest associating a symptom with a defect.

The fact that a defect in the defined description is indicated as "A000-Symptom" and "0141-no light continuity" does not delegate these items as symptoms. Any term could be used to describe a defect, but as the specification elucidates, Kazemi and particularly Fig. 35, only illustrate defects and defect descriptions, not symptoms as assumed in the Office Action. Applicant reminds the Examiner that applicant can be their own lexicographer. Therefore, even if the term symptom is used in the figure, it is the meaning of the term as described in the specification that applies and not what is assumed to be the meaning of the term. In Kazemi, these terms are described as representing defects and not symptoms.

Therefore, Kazemi fails to teach, *inter alia,* said defect data entity being associated with said system data entity and said action data entity being associated with said defect data entity, as recited in claim 1. Further, Kazemi fails to teach, inter alia, a symptom category data entity storing symptom categories of manufacturing defects, a defect category data entity storing defect categories of the manufacturing process and a process/symptom/defect frequency data entity observing a relationship frequency between the manufacturing process identifies, the symptom categories, and the defect categories, as recited in claim 10.

Thus, Kazemi does not teach each and every feature of the claimed invention as required under 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-26 are distinguishable over the cited patent. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)